

APPROVED
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
September 22, 2008

TIME The meeting convened at 6:37 p.m.

PRESENT Chair Lord-Hausman, Vice-Chair Moore, Commissioners Berger, Longley-Cook, Kirola, Fort, Krietz and Krongold.

ABSENT Commissioner Robinson

MINUTES

The August 22, 2008 minutes were approved with corrections to Agenda items one, two and three under Oral Communications/Non Agenda Items.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There was no written communication.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Moore requested that Agenda item number two under Old Business, be moved to the front of the agenda because she was not able to stay for the entire meeting to which the Commission agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Disability Awareness Month (Chair Lord-Hausman and Vice-Chair Moore):

Vice-Chair Moore stated that she spoke with John McDonald, Park and Recreation Department, who said that there would be no tree planting until November, because the grounds at the parks are not in good condition for tree planting. Vice-Chair Moore asked if the CDI would like to move forward with the event in November to which the Commission agreed. Vice-Chair Moore agreed to write the speech for the event and to coordinate with Mr. McDonald for a November 8 date.

Commissioner Berger stated that trees can be purchased for \$10 from the Arbor Group to which Chair-Lord Hausman replied that the purchase of a tree is not the issue, but rather the timing in which the trees can be planted at any of the parks, due to the condition of the soil.

Chair Lord-Hausman requested that the CDI select a date so that it can be announced during the proclamation presentation at the October 7 City Council meeting. The CDI agreed to Saturday, November 8, 2008 as the tree planting date. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she will not be able to attend the City Council meeting and requested that someone from the CDI attend in her absence. Vice-Chair Moore and Commissioner Krietz agreed to attend the October 7 City Council meeting and announce the November 8 tree planting date.

Secretary Akil also confirmed that last year's proclamation for Disability Awareness month was

not pushed back by the City, as indicated by the Commission from the August 25, 2008 meeting. Chair Lord-Hausman indicated that it was previous years where this occurred. Secretary Akil stated that she would make sure that the October 7 date for the proclamation presentation does not change.

The meeting resumed back to the original order of business on the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CDI Meeting Room Change (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Chair Lord-Hausman discussed a letter that she sent to Secretary Akil and Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney, regarding the chairs in City Hall Conference Room 360, of not being adequately accessible for persons with certain disabilities and for some with physical limitations. Chair Lord-Hausman referenced the notes on the agenda for “accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) is available.” Based on inventory and availability, Conference Room 391 is the only room with adjustable chairs and arm rests. Room 391 is located behind Council Chambers and the Planning and Building Department meets in Council Chambers the same Monday evening that the Commission meets. Chair Lord-Hausman believes that if the Commission changes its meeting location, it could be a distraction when exiting from Council Chambers during the Planning Board meeting.

Commissioner Krongold asked if the Main Library Family Literacy Room is available with adjustable chairs, to which Secretary Akil stated that she checked with the Director and only the standard chairs, similar to Room 360, are available in all of the library conference rooms. Commissioner Longley-Cook asked if we could borrow the chairs to which Secretary Akil responded that specific instruction was given that the adjustable chairs are not to be moved back and forth from Room 391.

Commissioners Kirola and Krietz agreed that the meeting should be in a room that is comfortable for those Commissioners who may have physical difficulties getting in and out of non-adjustable chairs.

Commissioner Longley-Cook stated that visitors would be confused about going into and behind Council Chambers when coming to a CDI meeting.

Commissioner Krietz suggested that the CDI hold the October 27 meeting in Room 391 to determine if it will work out for the Commissioners to which Chair Lord-Hausman agreed. Secretary Akil stated that she would check Room 391 availability and forward that information to the Commission in the October package.

2. Community Outreach Proposal (Commissioner Krongold):

Commissioner Krongold discussed possible partnerships for an outreach event to community members with special needs, in connection with the CERT Disaster Registry. Commissioner Krongold distributed and discussed the draft proposal, which includes a kick-off meeting, list of potential and definite partners, potential underwriting/sponsorship, community resources and date and location. Commissioner Krongold asked if the Commission felt this is something that they could do and requested further input.

Chair Lord-Hausman stated she liked the idea and this would be a broad-based effort.

Commissioner Krietz suggested adding the Alameda Adult School program to the list of potential partners. Chair Lord-Hausman also agreed to the definite partners on the draft proposal and stated that there are tremendous resources available, including the Special Olympics and Miracle Baseball League.

Commissioner Krietz stated that the City of Dublin has done a safety fair and the CDI could customize its outreach event similar to Dublin's.

Chair Lord-Hausman asked, in principle, if the CDI would like to explore this more with Commissioner Krongold as the lead to which the Commission agreed. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that Disaster Registry staff participation is positive.

Commissioner Krietz stated that she thinks this is a great idea and volunteered to assist Commissioner Krongold.

Commissioner Berger stated it is the kind of exposure that the CDI has needed since it started.

Commissioner Krongold agreed to come back with more information and details at the October meeting.

Commissioner Berger stated that the CDI should partner with the Hospital for next year's fair as a good start to which Chair Lord-Hausman responded that it will not work because they do not have room, but it is something that the work group could begin to plan and work on.

Commissioner Krongold stated that she will contact Jackie Krause regarding using the Mastick Senior Center as a possible event location.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Vote to Consider Changing Meeting Start Time (Chair Lord-Hausman / Secretary Akil):

Chair Lord-Hausman asked by a vote of hands who is willing to amend the bylaws by changing the official meeting start time from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., to which all of the Commissioners agreed. Chair Lord-Hausman moved to change the start time to 7:00 p.m. beginning October 27, 2008; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Krongold and passed unanimously by those present.

2. Bike Plan Task Force Committee (Commissioner Krietz):

Commissioner Krietz stated that there has been no meeting scheduled.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

1. Secretary Akil confirmed with Commissioner Berger that the CDI selected Saturday, November 8, 2008 as the tree planting date and that last year's presentation of the proclamation was not pushed back as originally indicated by the Commission at the August 25 meeting.
2. Secretary Akil stated that there would be a CDI webpage update during the October 27 meeting.
3. Secretary Akil confirmed that she will mail an updated CDI Roster prior to the next meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Commissioner Berger stated that she will try to contact Dan Lachtman regarding the upstairs' bathroom accessibility concerns of the Buena Vista Commons. Chair Lord-Hausman advised that she spoke to someone involved with the project and reviewed the project's accessibility amenities with the Commission.
2. Commissioner Berger stated that she contacted the County Registrar regarding accessibility issues for persons with disabilities and that she may be able to forward that information to the Journal for inclusion in an article.
3. Commissioner Berger stated that there is no place for a mini-bus to park at the Alameda Ferry on Main Street and requested that space be designated for mini-bus parking to which Secretary Akil stated that she will follow up with the Ferry Services Manager from the Public Works Department and get back to the Commission.
4. Commissioner Longley-Cook reviewed information from East Bay Learning Disability Association (East Bay LDA) regarding a free parent education workshop network at the Oakland Main Library, scheduled for October 4, 2008, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. Commissioner Krietz distributed the draft CDI calendar for review and comment. An updated calendar will be distributed at the October meeting.

Commissioners Berger & Kreitz agreed to attend the October 18, 2008 Alameda Hospital Health Fair with Commissioner Longley-Cook.

6. Commissioner Krongold stated that she contacted Mark Mendleson from Universal Design Specialists, who agreed to attend a CDI meeting to discuss accessible design so that the CDI could eventually create its own checklist. Chair Lord-Hausman confirmed that the December 8, 2008 meeting will work and that the agenda would be light to allow more time for the presentation and question and answers.
7. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she followed up with staff regarding the upstairs's bathroom accessibility concerns with the Buena Vista Commons. The downstairs bathroom has a roll-in shower and the upstairs bathroom has a raised toilet, grab bars in the shower and a hand-held drop down seat. This was not ideal, but they did much more as a result of attending the CDI meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, October 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia A. Akil
Commission Secretary